

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for delivering ~~an effective amount of a~~ medicament to an individual, ~~the effective amount corresponding to an enteral administration amount,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum ~~consisting of~~ comprising ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, ~~and flavors~~ and combinations thereof, and at least one medicament, the ingredients and medicament having a uniform distribution throughout the chewing gum including less than a typical amount of medicament that is swallowed by the individual to achieve a bioequivalent effect ~~the enteral administration amount of the medicament;~~

chewing the chewing gum to cause the medicament to be released from the chewing gum composition into the buccal cavity of the individual; and

continuing to chew the chewing gum thereby creating a fluid pressure causing ~~at least an effective amount of~~ the medicament to enter the systemic system of the individual through an oral mucosa of the individual.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the chewing gum is chewed for at least 2 minutes.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the chewing gum creates a saliva content of medicament of approximately 1700 to about 4400 ppm.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 1 including the steps of chewing a chewing gum including the medicament at least twice a day.

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the chewing gum creates a saliva content of medicament of approximately 4 ppm to about 450 ppm.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for reducing the amount of agent necessary to ~~deliver an effective amount of the agent to~~ achieve an effect in an individual as compared to a typical agent that is swallowed, ~~the effective amount corresponding to an enteral administration amount~~, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum ~~consisting of~~ comprising ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors and combinations thereof, and at least one agent that is typically swallowed by an individual to achieve a specific effect, the ingredients and agent being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum, the chewing gum including less than a typical ~~the enteral administration~~ amount of agent that is swallowed by the individual to achieve a bioequivalent effect;

chewing the chewing gum and thereby causing the agent to be released into the saliva of the individual; and

continuing to chew the chewing gum forcing ~~at least an effective amount of~~ the agent through an oral mucosa contained in a buccal cavity of the individual.

Claim 8 (original): The method of Claim 7 wherein the agent is a medicament.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of Claim 8 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 7 wherein the chewing gum is chewed for at least 2 minutes.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 7 wherein the chewing gum creates a saliva content of medicament of approximately 15 to about 440 ppm.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 7 including the steps of chewing a chewing gum including the medicament at least twice a day.

Claims 13-18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of delivering ~~an effective amount of a medicament, the effective amount corresponding to an enteral administration amount,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

providing a chewing gum ~~consisting of~~ comprising ingredients selected from the group consisting of elastomers, resins, fats, oils, softeners, fillers, waxes, colorants, antioxidants, plasticizers, texturizers, emulsifiers, whiteners, acidulants, bulking agents, essential oils, sweeteners, flavors and combinations thereof, and at least one medicament, the ingredients and medicament being uniformly distributed throughout the chewing gum, the chewing gum including less than a typical ~~the enteral administration~~ amount of medicament that is swallowed by the individual to achieve a bioequivalent effect; and

chewing the chewing gum for at least 2 minutes in a buccal cavity of an individual chewing the chewing gum.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of Claim 19 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 21 (original): The method of Claim 19 including the steps of chewing a chewing gum including the medicament at least twice a day.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 19 wherein two pieces of chewing gum are chewed at a time.

Claims 23-25 (canceled):

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising adjusting the hydrophilic/lipophilic balance of the medicament.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising blending the medicament with a base/emulsifier system.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27 wherein the blending occurs before the providing.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 19 further comprising absorbing through an oral mucosa of the individual an effective amount of the medicament into the systemic system of the individual.